DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF FISHES (APRION ARIOMMUS AND OPHIDIUM BEANI) FROM PENSACOLA, FLORIDA.

By DAVID S. JORDAN and CHARLES H. GILBERT.

1. Aprion ariommus sp. nov.

Head $3\frac{1}{4}$ in length to base of caudal; depth, $3\frac{3}{5}$. D. XI, 11; A. III, 8. Lateral line with about 60 tubes, the number of transverse series of scales being about 70; about 7 scales between first dorsal spine and lateral line.

Body elliptical, rather elongate, moderately compressed, highest near the front of the dorsal, the anterior profile regularly and not rapidly declined. Snout short, $4\frac{1}{4}$ in head, the premaxillaries in front being about on the level of the middle of the eye. Mouth oblique, the lower jaw slightly projecting; maxillary reaching about to front of pupil, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in head; maxillary naked, striate, without supplemental bone, slipping under the edge of the narrow, entire preorbital.

Jaws each with a moderate band of villiform teeth, those of the outer series enlarged, especially above, none of the teeth distinctly canine like. Vomer, palatines, and tongue with bands of villiform teeth, those on the vomer in a long, somewhat arrow-shaped patch, being prolonged far backward on the median line, as in many species of *Lutjanus;* teeth on the tongue in two patches, a small one before a large one. Lower jaw thin, without evident pores.

Eye very large, $2\frac{4}{5}$ in head. Interorbital space flattish, $1\frac{2}{5}$ in eye. Occipital crest rather low, thin, and sharp. Preopercle sharply toothed, the teeth near the angle sharp and straight, directed backward, the teeth on posterior limb directed upward. No notch above angle of preopercle. Opercle ending in two flat points, between which is an emargination. Suprascapula strongly serrate.

Gill-rakers long and strong. Pseudobranchiæ large.

Scales small, ctenoid, those above lateral line in very oblique series, not at all parallel with the lateral line, those below the lateral line forming curved series, which are convex downwards. Bases of soft dorsal and anal naked. Pectoral without axillary scale.

Dorsal moderately but not deeply notched; the spines rather strong, not very unequal, the longest (fourth) about $2\frac{1}{3}$ in head. Caudal long, rather deeply forked, its lobes about $1\frac{1}{3}$ in head. Anal spines short, the second longest $3\frac{1}{4}$ in head. Pectorals long, $1\frac{2}{5}$ in head. Ventrals, $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Color in spirits silvery white, perhaps rosy in life. Sides with faint, dark olive, narrow, undulating streaks which follow the direction of the rows of scales. Fins plain, probably red in life.

Two specimens of this species, each about six inches long, were obtained by Mr. Silas Stearns from the stomachs of red snappers (*Lutjanus blackfordi* Goode & Bean) on the "Snapper Banks" off Pensacola. Both

are in bad condition, parts of the body having been injured by the digestive process. There is apparently no doubt that the present species belongs to the genus *Aprion*, as understood by Bleecker (=*Apsilus*, *Chætopterus*, *Pristipomoides*, *Sparopsis*, and *Platyinius* of authors). It does not, however, seem to be very closely related to any of the other species known.

Several other interesting species are in the collection of which these specimens form a part. The following list includes those which were taken from the stomachs of the snappers:

Ophichthys schneideri Steindachner.

The remains referred by us (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1882, 260) to *Ophichthys mordax* belong to this species. It is doubtful whether *O. punctifer* (= *mordax*) has yet been taken on the United States coast.

Leptocephalus caudicula (Bean) J. & G.
Myrophis? microstigmius Poey (very bad condition).
Etrumeus teres (Dekay) Bleecker.
Synodus intermedius (Spix) Poey.
Exocœtus mesogaster Bloch. (= *E. hillianus* Gosse).
Trichiurus lepturus L.
Scomber colias Gmelin.
Trachurus saurus Raf.
Serranus philadelphicus (L.) J. & G.
Aprion ariommus Jor. & Gilb.
Platyglossus radiatus (L.) Jor. & Gilb. (= *P. floreälis* J. & G.).
Platyglossus caudalis (L.) Günther.
Xyrichthys lineatus (Gmel.) J. & G. (nec C. & V.).
Ophidium marginatum Dek.

(=? *Ophidium josephi* Grd. ? O. *graëllsi*, Poey, nec Jor. & Gilb.).

Emblemaria Bean, MSS.
Opisthognathus lonchurus Jor. & Gilb.
Hemirhombus pœtulus Bean.

2. **Ophidium beani** sp. nov. (30868).

(= *Ophidium graëllsi* Jordan & Gilbert, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1882, 31.)

In our previous paper on the fishes of Pensacola, we referred two specimens (30868) of an *Ophidium* from the stomach of a red snapper to *Ophidium graëllsi*, of Poey, in spite of several important discrepancies. We have lately received from Pensacola a specimen of an *Ophidium* which agrees fully with Poey's description, and which is evidently very different from the fish at first called *graëllsi* by us. This species we cannot distinguish from *O. marginatum* Dekay (already known from Charleston) nor from *O. josephi* Girard, known from the coast of Texas. We may therefore provisionally consider *O. marginatum*, *O. josephi*, and *O. graëllsi* as identical, while the fish called by us *O. graëllsi* may receive a

new name (*Ophidium beani*), in honor of our excellent friend the Curator of Ichthyology in the National Museum. *O. beani* agrees with *O. holbrooki* Putnam, in the long and tapering air-bladder, but differs in the much longer head (6 in length in *O. holbrooki*). In *O. marginatum*, the air-bladder is ovate, truncate behind. Its form is not mentioned in the descriptions of *O. graëllsi* and *O. josephi*.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, *February* 7, 1883.

ON THE PROBABLE IDENTITY OF MOTACILLA OCULARIS SWINHOE AND M. AMURENSIS SEEBOHM, WITH REMARKS ON AN ALLIED SUPPOSED SPECIES, M. BLAKISTONI SEEBOHM.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

The Pied Wagtails of Eastern Asia have given much trouble, as the numerous papers in the Ibis and Proceedings of the London Zoölogical Society, by Mr. Swinhoe, Mr. Seebohm, and others, testify. In a recent article in the first-named journal (in the number for January, 1883, pp. 90–92) the latter author gives some "Observations on the Pied Wagtails of Japan," in which is described a supposed new species (*M. blakistoni*) breeding in the Kurile Islands, South Yesso, and Askold, and concluding with a synoptical "Key" to the allied Asiatic species, nine in number

The material in the National Museum is not what could be desired, and is by no means so extensive as that upon which Mr. Seebohm's observations are based. Nevertheless, the series includes specimens which throw much light upon the subject, to the extent, in fact, of conclusively proving that, either it is only the summer adult male of *M. amurensis* which has the back black, while the fully adult female is undistinguishable from *M. ocularis*, or, else, that these two birds are identical, the former representing the adult male, and the latter the adult female, or perhaps, in winter, both sexes. The specimens which render this fact perfectly obvious are a series of five skins collected by Dr. L. Stejneger, of the United States Signal Service, on Bering Island and at Petropaulovski, Kamtschatka (one only from the latter locality). This series includes two males and three females (the sex of one of the latter conjectural, however*), the former being typical *ocularis* and the latter equally typical "*amurensis*." There can be no doubt that they represent opposite sexes of the same species, having been obtained together, the duties being from May 11 to June 27.

Granting that the gray-backed specimens hereinafter to be described really represent the *M. ocularis* of Swinhoe (and they agree in the

*There can be no question as to the correctness of the collector's identification of the sex, his invariable practice being to mark the sex only when determined by dissection.